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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 remain in this application. Claims 1, 18-20 have been amended: Claims 18-20 have been amended to reflect the Examiner's renumbering to 17-19. Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the plurality of openings, and the adhesive, are disposed in and on, respectively, the flexible sheet. Claim 1 has also been amended to indicate that the cable keeper is comprised of a single sheet. The amendment is clearly supported by the drawings (e.g. FIGS. 3, 6-8), which indicate only a single sheet for the cable keeper.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,579,310 to Wells in view of U.S. Patent 4,025,015 to Kolie.

The Examiner asserts that Wells discloses all of the limitations of Applicant's invention with the exception that Wells does not disclose the limitation of an adhesive disposed on the sheet for attaching the cable keeper to an object and wherein the adhesive is an adhesive tape.

Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection. The Examiner contends that Wells discloses, inter alia, a cable keeper comprising a sheet of flexible material. Applicant submits that it is clear from Figures 1-5 of Wells that the cable organizing device of Wells is not comprised of a sheet of flexible material. For example, Figure 3 shows that the tabs (12) have a significant vertical dimension (thickness) in addition to their length and width extending from the backplane (what Wells refers to as the "strip"). Figure 4 also illustrates the tab thickness and further shows a backplane, or strip, having considerable thickness, relative to its other dimensions, enough so that an opening (34) may be formed in the strip and which opening extends only partially through the thickness of the strip. See column 3, lines 30-33, wherein Wells refers to a cavity (50) formed on an "opposite side" of the strip for receiving an anchor base.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (copyright 1986 by Merriam-Websters, Inc.) defines "sheet" as "...a portion of something that is thin in comparison with its length and breadth". It is clear from the common meaning of the word "sheet",

and the use thereof by Applicant (see, for example, FIG. 4 of Applicant's disclosure showing the sheet from an edge view), that Wells does not disclose or fairly suggest a cable keeper (organizer) comprising a sheet of flexible material, the sheet of material having openings adjacent an edge of the material, nor would one of ordinary skill in the art draw such a conclusion, either by referencing the drawings or the text of Wells.

In addition, Wells attributes flexibility only to tabs (12), hook (30), and barbs (46,48). FIGS. 1, 4 and 5 show that tabs (12), hooks (30) and barbs (46, 48), although described as flexible, are also not sheets. Applicant therefore asserts that the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness.

Claims 1 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,375,017 to Schattner in view of U.S. Patent 4,025,015 to Kolie.

The Examiner argues that Schattner discloses a cable keeper having all of the limitations of Applicant's invention with the exception of an adhesive disposed on at least one of the sheets for permanently attaching the cable keeper to an object.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant first contends that Schattner represents non-analogous art in that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to search the art of tubing organizers for organizing pliable tubing (e.g. IV tubes) in the medical field to solve the problem of organizing wires/cables in a computer environment.

Second, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Kolie with Schattner in order to arrive at placing an adhesive on the organizer of Schattner for permanently affixing the organizer to an object. Indeed, in all embodiments but two disclosed by Schattner, the tubing organizer is described – and shown – as being rotatably mounted. The organizer disclosed by Schattner in Figure 17 is described in column 7, lines 20-50. The organizer of Figure 17 rather than being rotatably mounted to the support structure of the other embodiments, is said to be “particularly suitable for resting on a horizontal surface without the need for a support structure” (see also column 5, lines 7-9). Thus, Wells never intended for the tubing organizer to be permanently affixed, which would inherently defeat the movable nature of the organizer. This is particularly evident by

referring directly to Figure 17 indicating the organizer resting on a surface along an edge of the organizer. Indeed, the organizer of FIG. 17 would require being movable in order to utilize the opening resting against the table. The description of the embodiment depicted by Figure 18, found in column 7, lines 51-67 and column 8, lines 1-10, makes no mention of mounting the organizer. Moreover, the organizer is shown with a hole at central axis "c", identical to hole 46 shown in other embodiments, wherein hole 46 is for the purpose of rotatably mounting the organizer. It is suggested by Schattner that the embodiment depicted in FIG. 12-16, showing a straight mounting element, may be positioned between mattresses, also not a permanent mounting method. Clearly, one of ordinary skill in the art would conclude that the organizer of Wells, when considered as a whole, is not intended for permanent mounting. To otherwise reach the conclusion that Schattner could be modified for permanent attachment would require impermissible hindsight knowledge of Applicant's invention (notwithstanding the fact that merely because references "can" be combined is not sufficient to establish prima facie obviousness).

Even assuming that the mounting portion (16, 216, 316) of Schattner's organizer represents a sheet which "can" be affixed to an object with an adhesive, this sheet does not also comprise openings as described in Applicant's claim 1. Applicant therefore argues that the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wells combined with Kolie and in further view of U.S. Patent 4,693,935 to Mazurek.

The Examiner contends that the combination of Wells and Kolie disclose all of the limitations of Applicant's invention with the exception of the adhesive strength of the adhesive. Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the rejection. Applicant submits that for at least the reasons given above with respect to Wells and Kolie, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness. Mazurek does not cure the deficiencies of Wells and Kolie.

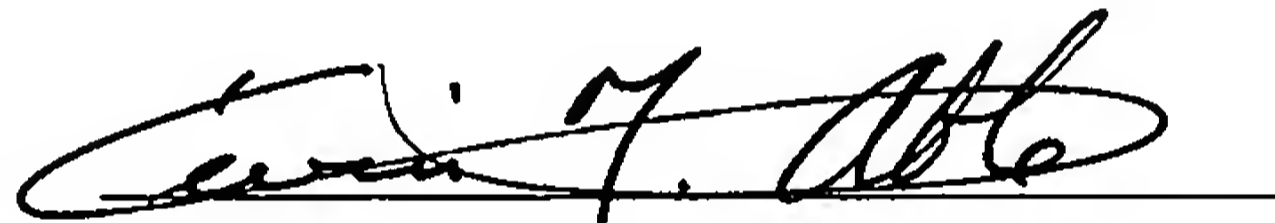
Appl. No.: 10/621,876
Reply to Office Action of: 04/12/2004

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the credit card number as indicated on the accompanying form PTO-2038.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M. Able at 607-974-2637.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Able
Agent for Assignee
Reg. No. 52,401
2825 Hickock Road
Corning, NY 14830
607-937-4235

DATE: 7/7/04



WEBSTER'S



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sheath 2: to plunge or bury (as a sword) in flesh 3: to withdraw (a claw) into a sheath 4: to case or cover with something (as sheets of metal) that protects — *sheath-er* \shē-thər, -thər/ *n*
sheath-ing \shē-thīng, -thīng/ *n* (15c) 1: the action of one that sheathes something 2: material used to sheathe something; esp: the first covering of boards or of waterproof material on the outside wall of a frame house or on a timber roof
sheath knife *n* (1837): a knife having a fixed blade and designed to be carried in a sheath
shea tree \shē-, 'shā-/ *n* [Bambara *si*] (1799): a tropical African tree (*Butyrospermum parkii*) of the sapodilla family with fatty nuts that yield shea butter
sheave \shiv, 'shēv/ *n* [ME *sheve*; akin to OE *scēath* sheath] (14c): a grooved wheel or pulley (as of a pulley block)
sheave \shēv/ *vt* sheaved; *sheav-ing* [sheaf] (ca. 1598): to gather and bind into a sheaf
she-bang \shi-'bāŋ/ *n* [perh. alter. of *shebeen*] (ca. 1895): CONTRIVANCE, AFFAIR, CONCERN (in charge of the whole ~)
She-bat \shə-'bāt, -'vāt/ *n* [Heb *shēbhāt*] (ca. 1769): the 5th month of the civil year or the 11th month of the ecclesiastical year in the Jewish calendar — see MONTH table
she-been \shə-'bēn/ *n* [IrGael *sibin* bad ale] chiefly Irish (1787): an unlicensed or illegally operated drinking establishment
She-chi-nah \shə-'kē-nə, -'kē-nə, -'ki-nə/ *n* [Heb *shēkhināh*] (1663): the presence of God in the world as conceived in Jewish theology
shed \shed/ *vb* shed; *shed-ding* [ME *sheden* to divide, separate, fr. OE *scēadan*; akin to OHG *skeidan* to separate, L *scindere* to cut, split, Gk *schizein* to split] *vt* (bef. 12c) 1 chiefly dial: to set apart; SEGREGATE 2: to cause to be dispersed without penetrating (duck's plumage ~s water) 3 a: to cause (blood) to flow by cutting or wounding b: to pour forth in drops (~ tears) c: to give off in a stream (fish *shedding* their eggs in spawning) d: to give off or out (his book ~s some light on this subject) 4 a (1): to cast off (as a body covering): MOLT (2): to let fall (as leaves) (3): to eject (as seed or spores) from a natural receptacle b: to rid oneself of temporarily or permanently as superfluous or unwanted ~ *vi* 1: to pour out; SPILL 2: to become dispersed; SCATTER 3: to cast off some natural covering (the cat is *shed-ding*) *syn* see DISCARD — *shed blood*: to cause death by violence
shed *n* (bef. 12c) 1 *obs*: DISTINCTION, DIFFERENCE 2: something (as the skin of a snake) that is discarded in shedding 3: a divide of land
shed *n* [alter. of earlier *shadde*, prob. fr. ME *shade*] (15c) 1 a: a slight structure built for shelter or storage; esp: a single-storied building with one or more sides unenclosed b: a building that resembles a shed 2 *archaic*: HUT
shed *vt* *shed-ded*; *shed-ding* (1850): to put or house in a shed
she'd \shēd/ *she had*: she would
shed-der \shed-ər/ *n* (14c): one that sheds something: as a: a crab or lobster about to molt b: a newly molted crab
shed dormer *n* (1948): a dormer with a roof sloping in the same direction as the roof from which the dormer projects
sheen \shēn/ *adj* [ME *shene*, fr. OE *sciēne*; akin to OE *scēawian* to look — more at SHOW] (bef. 12c) 1 *archaic*: BEAUTIFUL 2 *archaic*: SHINING, RESPLENDENT
sheen *vi* (14c): to be bright: show a sheen
sheen *n* (1602) 1 a: a bright or shining condition: BRIGHTNESS b: a subdued glitter approaching but short of optical reflection c: a lustrous surface imparted to textiles through finishing processes or use of shiny yarns 2: a textile exhibiting notable sheen — *sheeny* \shē-nē/ *adj*
sheep \shēp/ *n*, *pl* sheep often attrib [ME, fr. OE *scēap*; akin to OHG *scāf* sheep] (bef. 12c) 1: any of numerous ruminant mammals (genus *Ovis*) related to the goats but stockier and lacking a beard in the male; *specif*: one (*O. aries*) long domesticated esp. for its flesh and wool 2 a: a timid defenseless creature b: a timid docile person; esp: one easily influenced or led 3: leather prepared from the skins of sheep — *SHEEPSKIN*
sheep-ber-ry \shēp-ər-/ *n* (ca. 1814): an often shrubby No. American viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*) with white flowers in flat cymes
sheep-cote \shēp-'kōt, -'kāt/ *n*, chiefly Brit (15c): SHEEPFOLD
sheep-dip \shēp-'dīp/ *n* (1865): a liquid preparation of toxic chemicals into which sheep are plunged esp. to destroy parasitic arthropods
sheep-dog \shēp-'dɔg/ *n* (1774): a dog used to tend, drive, or guard sheep
sheep fescue *n* (1945): a hardy fine-foliaged European perennial grass (*Festuca ovina*) widely used as a lawn grass
sheep-fold \shēp-'fōld/ *n* (15c): a pen or shelter for sheep
sheep-herd-er \shēp-'hərd-ər/ *n* (ca. 1871): a worker in charge of sheep esp. on open range
sheep-herd-ing \shēp-'hərd-īŋ/ *n* (1891): the activities of a worker engaged in tending sheep
sheep-ish \shēp-'ish/ *adj* (13c) 1: resembling a sheep in meekness, stupidity, or timidity 2: embarrassed by consciousness of a fault (~ look) — *sheep-ish-ly* *adv* — *sheep-ish-ness* *n*
sheep ked \shēp-'ked/ *n* [sheep + ked (sheep ked), of unknown origin] (1925): a wingless bloodsucking dipterous fly (*Melophagus ovinus*) that feeds chiefly on sheep and is a vector of sheep trypanosomiasis — called also *sheep tick*
sheep laurel *n* (1810): a No. American dwarf shrub (*Kalmia angustifolia*) that is poisonous to young stock and resembles mountain laurel but has narrower leaves and smaller bright red flowers — called also *lambkill*
sheep's eye *n* (1529): a shy longing usu. amorous glance — usu. used in *pl*.
sheep-shank \shēp-'shāŋk/ *n* (ca. 1627) 1: a knot for shortening a line — see KNOT illustration 2 *Scot*: something of no worth or importance
sheeps-head \shēps-'hed/ *n* (1643) 1: a marine percoid food fish (*Archosargus probatocephalus* of the family Sparidae) of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the U.S. with broad incisor teeth. 2: FRESHWATER DRUM 3: a common largely red or rose California wrasse (*Semicossyphus pulcher*)
sheep-shear-er \shēp-'shir-ər/ *n* (1539): one that shears sheep
sheep-shear-ing \shēp-'shir-īŋ/ *n* (1607) 1: the act of shearing sheep 2: the time or season for shearing sheep

sheep-skin \-skin/ *n* (13c) 1 a: the skin of a sheep; also: leather prepared from it b: PARCHMENT c: a garment made of or lined with sheepskin 2: DIPLOMA
sheep sorrel *n* (1807): a small acid dock (*Rumex acetosella*)
sheep walk *n*, chiefly Brit (1586): a pasture or range for sheep
sheer \shi(ə)r/ *adj* [ME *schere* freed from guilt, prob. alter. of *skere*, fr. ON *skær* pure; akin to OE *scinan* to shine] (1568) 1 *obs*: BRIGHT, SHINING 2: of very thin or transparent texture: DIAPHANOUS 3: a: UNQUALIFIED, UTTER (~ folly) (~ ignorance) b: being free from an adulterant: PURE, UNMIXED c: viewed or acting in dissociation from all else (won through by ~ determination) 4: marked by great steepness *syn* see STEEP — *sheer-ly* *adv* — *sheer-ness* *n*
sheer *adv* (1600) 1: in a complete manner: ALTOGETHER 2: straight up or down without a break: PERPENDICULARLY
sheer *n* (ca. 1920): a sheer fabric; also: a garment of such a fabric
sheer *vb* [perh. alter. of *shear*] *vi* (1635): to deviate from a course: SWERVE ~ *vt*: to cause to shear
sheer *n* (1670) 1: a turn, deviation, or change in a course (as of a ship) 2: the position of a ship riding to a single anchor and heading toward it
sheer *n* [perh. alter. of *shear*] (1691): the fore-and-aft curvature from bow to stern of a ship's deck as shown in side elevation
sheer-legs \shi(ə)r-'legz, -'lāgz/ *n pl* but sing or *pl* in constr (1900): SHEAR 1c(2)
sheet \shēt/ *n* [ME *shete*, fr. OE *scýte*; akin to OE *scēotan* to shoot — more at SHOOT] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a broad piece of cloth; esp: an oblong of usu. linen or cotton cloth used as an article of bedding b: SAIL 1a(1) 2 a (1): a usu. rectangular piece of paper; esp: one manufactured for printing (2): a rectangular piece of heavy paper with a plant specimen mounted on it (an herbarium of 100,000 ~s) b: a printed signature for a book esp. before it has been folded, cut, or bound — usu. used in *pl*. c: a newspaper, periodical, or occasional publication (a gossip ~) d: the unseparated postage stamps printed by one impression of a plate on a single piece of paper; also: a pane of stamps 3: a broad stretch or surface of something (a ~ of ice) 4: a suspended or moving expanse (as of fire or rain) 5 a(1) a portion of something that is thin in comparison to its length and breadth b: a flat baking utensil of tinned metal (a cookie ~) 6: a surface or part of a surface in which it is possible to pass from any one point of it to any other without leaving the surface (a hyperboloid of two ~s)
sheet-like \-lik/ *adj*
sheet *adj* (1582) 1: rolled or spread out in a sheet 2: of, relating to, or concerned with the making of sheet metal
sheet *vr* (1606) 1: to cover with a sheet: SHROUD 2: to furnish with sheets 3: to form into sheets ~ *vi*: to fall, spread, or flow in a sheet (the rain ~ed against the windows) — *sheet-er* *n* — *sheet home* 1: to extend (a sail) and set as flat as possible by hauling upon the sheets 2: to fix the responsibility for: bring home to one
sheet *n* [ME *shete*, fr. OE *scēata* lower corner of a sail; akin to OE *scýte* sheet] (14c) 1: a rope or chain that regulates the angle at which a sail is set in relation to the wind 2 *pl*: the spaces at either end of an open boat not occupied by thwart: foresheets and stern sheets together — three sheets in the wind or three sheets to the wind: DRUNK
sheet anchor *n* (15c) 1: a large strong anchor formerly carried in the waist of a ship and used as a spare in an emergency 2: something that constitutes a main support or dependence esp. in danger
sheet bend *n* (1841): a bend or hitch used for temporarily fastening a rope to the bight of another rope or to an eye — see KNOT illustration
sheet-fed \shēt-'fed/ *adj* (1888): of, relating to, or printed by a press that prints on paper in sheet form
sheet glass *n* (1805): glass made in large sheets directly from the furnace or by making a cylinder and then flattening it
sheet-ing \shēt-īŋ/ *n* (1711) 1: material in the form of sheets or suitable for forming into sheets 2: a lining (as wood or steel) used to support an embankment or the walls of an excavation
sheet lightning *n* (1829): lightning in diffused or sheet form due to reflection and diffusion by the clouds and sky
sheet metal *n* (ca. 1909): metal in the form of a sheet
sheet music *n* (1857): music printed on large unbound sheets of paper
Sheet-rock \shēt-'rāk/ *trademark* — used for plasterboard
sheikh or *sheik* \shēk, also 'shāk-for- / *n* [Ar *shaykh*] (1577) 1: an Arab chief 2 *usu* *sheik*: a man held to be irresistibly attractive to romantic young women
sheikh-dom or *sheik-dom* \-dəm, -təm/ *n* (1845): a region under the rule of a sheikh
shek-el \shēk-'əl/ *n* [Heb *sheqel*] (15c) 1 a: any of various ancient units of weight; esp: a Hebrew unit equal to about 252 grains Troy b: a unit of value based on a shekel weight of gold or silver 2: a coin weighing one shekel 3 *pl*: MONEY 4 — see MONEY table
Shekinah var of SHECHINAH
shel-drake \shel-'drāk/ *n* [ME, fr. *sheld* (akin to MD *schilled*, partly colored) + *drake*] (14c) 1: SHELDUCK 2: MERGANSER
shel-duck \shel-'dʌk/ *n* [shel- (as in *sheldrake*) + *duck*] (1707): any of various Old World ducks (genus *Tadorna*); esp: a common mostly black and-white European duck (*T. tadorna*) slightly larger than the mallard
shelf \shelf/ *n*, *pl* shelves \shelvz/ [ME, prob. fr. OE *scylfe*; akin to L *scalpere*, *sculpere* to carve, OE *sciell* shell] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a thin flat usu. long and narrow piece of material (as wood) fastened horizontally (as on a wall) at a distance from the floor to hold objects b: one of the several similar pieces in a closet, bookcase, or similar structure c: the contents of a shelf 2: a something resembling a shelf in form or position: as a: a sandbank or ledge of rocks usu. partially submerged b: a stratum with a shelflike surface c: a flat projecting layer of rock d: the submerged border of a continent or island: CONTINENTAL SHELF — *shelf-ful* \shelf-'fʌl/ *n* — *shelf-like* \shel-'flik/ *adj* — off the shelf 1: available from stock: not made to order (off the shelf equipment) 2: on the shelf: in a state of inactivity or uselessness
shelf ice *n* (1914): an extensive ice sheet originating on land but continuing out to sea beyond the depths at which it rests on the sea bottom
shelf life *n* (1927): the period of time during which a material may be stored and remain suitable for use
shell \shell/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *sciell*; akin to OE *scēalu* shell, ON *skell* sillex pebble, flint, Gk *skallein* to hoe] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a hard rigid usu. largely calcareous covering of an animal b: the hard or tough

outer covering of an egg esp. covering or outside part of a shell material (as of mollusk) thing that resembles a shell: esp: a building with an unf outside covering (the ~ of mere effigies and ~s of men for holding a filling (a pastry domed roof that is used prii glass 5: a thin hard layer: an impersonal attitude or sense of feeling 8: a narrc more persons pulling oars or the orbits of a group of elec rounding the nucleus of an at taining an explosive bursting holds the charge of powder at small arms 11: a plain usu — *shelly* \shel-'ē/ *adj*
shell *vt* (1562) 1 a: to tal shell, husk, pod, or capsule) of (as an ear of Indian corn, 2: to throw shells at, upon, against (as an opposing pitch off in thin pieces 2: to cast the pod or husk (nuts which a beach): collect shells
shell \shēl/ *n*, *pl* shells \shelz/ *n* [shēl] she wil
shell-lac \shə-'lak/ *n* [shēl - pared in thin orange or yellow bleached white 2: a prepar used chiefly as a wood filler: ing shellac used for making phonograph record
shellac *vr* *shel-lacked*; *shel-la* treat with shellac or a shellac
shell-lack-ing *n* (1938): a decis
shell-back \shel-'bak/ *n* (1883)
shell bean *n* (1868) 1: a bea compare SNAP BEAN 2: the ec
shell-crack-er \shel-'krak-ər/ *shelled* \sheld/ *adj* (1577) 1: often used in combination (pi the shell removed (~ oysters, corn)
shell-er \shel-'ər/ *n* (1694) 1 that collects seashells
shell-fish \-fish/ *n* (bef. 12c) shell; esp: an edible mollusk
shell-fish-ery \shel-'fīsh-ə-'rē/ *n* (tion of shellfish
shell game *n* (1890) 1: thiml 2: FRAUD; esp: a swindle in little or no value for a valuabl
shell jacket *n* (1840) 1: a shc the front 2: MESSJACKET
shell out *vb* (1801): PAY
shell pink *n* (1887): a variable
shell-proof \shel-'pruf/ *adj* (c bombs
shell shock *n* (1916): any of r conditions appearing in soldie
shell-shocked *adj* (1918) 1: confused, upset, or exhausted
shell steak *n* (1971): the pari tenderloin
shell-work \shel-'wərk/ *n* (ca. posed of a pattern of shells
shel-ter \shel-'tər/ *n* [origin covers or affords protection (~ being covered and protected (~ shelter *vb* sheltered; *shel-ter-er* or provide a shelter for: PRI under shelter or protection (~ take shelter — *shel-ter-er* -tər
shel-ter-belt \shel-'tər-'belt/ *n* (protects (as crops) from wind
shelter half *n* (1942): one of th
shelter tent *n* (ca. 1875): a changeable pieces of waterpr fitted together for use
shel-ty or *shel-tie* \shel-'tē/ *n*, ON *Hjalti* Shetlander] (165 SHEEPDOG
shelve \shelv/ *vb* shelved; *shel* shelves 2: to place on a sh b: to put off or aside (~ a pr a shelf — *shel-ver* *n*
shelving \shel-'vīŋ/ *n* (1687) sloping surface or place
shelving *n* (1844) 1: materia
Shem \shem/ *n* [Heb *Shēm*] progenitor of the Semitic peop
Shema \shə-'mā/ *n* [Heb *shē* the Jewish confession of fai and Num 15:37-41
Shem-ni Atze-reth \shə-'mē areth, fr. Heb *shēmīni* eigh Jewish festival following the special prayer for seasonal rai
Shem-ite \shem-'it/ *n* [Shem] or Shem-it-ish \shem-'it-ish/ the Shem-ite or Shem-it-ish
Shem-ni-gan \shə-'nan-i-gən/ trick used esp. for an underh